

cold weather, high winds, rain, and snow, together with the water conditions in the valley, probably account for the changes in bird life.

In 1922 the entire valley was well covered with water, from its most southern to its northern point, but during 1923, fully 50% of this area was dry and bare. Many small ponds and large areas of marshes were entirely devoid of water.

Gadwalls were the most abundant duck found, while the mallard, which in 1922 was equally as abundant, was almost entirely absent.

Cinnamon teal were very rare and only six pairs were noted. Shovelers and pintails were much more common than in 1922.

Sandhill cranes were present in increasing numbers and not less than 36 pairs.

The American white pelican had increased from a few hundred birds to more than a thousand, which were counted in one flock on Crump Lake; western grebes and horned grebes had increased 200%; western mourning doves showed a marked decrease in numbers; Caspian terns were not common, and showed a decrease in numbers, as also did Forsters terns.

Avocets, which were very common, were very rare in the valley, although much better nesting sites seemed available.

Black-crowned night herons were present in large increasing numbers and one colony contained 200 nests.

Black terns were found by the thousands, which were not seen in 1922.

Canada geese were nesting in increasing numbers and many had eggs on May 25.

The ring-bill gull, Farallone cormorant, and Treganzas heron colonies seemed to have increased at least 100%.

The sage grouse, or hen, showed to me to be decreasing very rapidly and was hard to find.

THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The recent affiliation of this organization with The Wilson Club makes a short historical sketch of its activities appear to be in order. On October 7, 1915, Messrs. A. F. Ganier and Dixon Merritt, of Nashville, called together a meeting of the half dozen local men known to be interested in bird study and as a result an organization was decided upon. At the subsequent bi-weekly meetings a constitution was written and adopted, notes compared and a survey made of the ornithological literature applicable to the central south. It was decided that the first work to be undertaken should be an authoritative list of the birds of the state and that field work should be begun by the members, toward that end. Two years later the list, in preliminary form, was published in the shape of a 32 page pamphlet as a bulletin of the State Department of Fish and Game. Since then field work has been carried on by the members and trips to various parts of the state have led to the accumulation of a great deal of data which will be available for the formulation of a revised edition of the list and later for a comprehen-

sive work on the birds of the state. The use of 3x5 inch printed bird record cards, in recording field lists, has assisted materially in standardizing the work of members. These cards were described in the December 1917 Wilson Bulletin. A number of local lists and papers, on Tennessee birds, have been published by members, chiefly in the above publication.

Since The Society's organization, it has met regularly every fourth week during the winter and every second week during the fall and spring. No meetings are held during the summer months. An annual meeting is held during October and a Spring Field Day each May. The Annual Meeting is held afield, at some attractive spot within motoring distance of Nashville, and the morning is spent in making a joint field list. A picnic dinner is followed by the meeting proper, which includes talks by members and the annual election of officers. At the meeting of October 28, 1923, the attendance was 34 and the birds listed numbered 51 species.

Each spring The Society puts on at Nashville a public exhibition, chiefly of birds though other forms of natural history are included. Specimens of all common local birds, with their nests and eggs, are represented, as well as such uncommon ones as are distinguished by some interesting feature or mark of interest. Color charts and pictures, photos, books and periodicals are included. Through an extensive labeling and poster system the exhibit is made to serve the twofold purpose of being educational as well as an aid to conservation. Public lectures on various phases of bird and nature study, illustrated with slides, supplement the exhibition. Some progress has also been made toward the creation of a state museum of natural history where such exhibits would be permanent.

Difficulty has been experienced in sustaining the interest of members scattered about the state at points where there are no others having the same or kindred interests. Affiliation with The Wilson Club, under terms which will enable The Society to interpret The Wilson Bulletin as its official organ, is expected to remedy this difficulty to a considerable extent. A well developed interest in bird study and its conservation has for some time been maintained at Knoxville, Tenn., and during January, 1924, a Knoxville Chapter of The T. O. S. was organized there with H. P. Ijams, President and Paul J. Adams, Secretary.

The officers for the state association, for 1924, are as follows: Albert F. Ganier, (Nashville) President; Prof. J. A. Robins, (McKenzie) Vice-president for West Tennessee; Dr. Harry S. Vaughn, (Nashville) Vice-president for Middle Tennessee; H. P. Ijams, (Knoxville) Vice-president for East Tennessee; Harry A. Monk, (Nashville) Secretary-Treasurer; Edgar McNish, (Madison) Curator.

HARRY A. MONK, Sec'y.

Nashville, Tenn., March 1, 1924.